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# DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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94-01846

# I. SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES REPORTS ON SITUATION

The twenty-fifth report of the Special Committee (A/48/557) was transmitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General on 1 November 1993. It followed two periodic reports (A/48/96 and A/48/278) which were transmitted to the Assembly on 8 January and 7 June 1993, respectively. In accordance with established practice, the reports were allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the Assembly, together with a number of related reports.

The reports under the item were summarized as follows in a press release issued at United Nations Headquarters (GA/SPD/20):

*"The Special Committee's three-part report on Israeli practices in the occupied territories (documents A/48/96, A/48/278, A/48/557) reviews practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in that area from 27 August 1992 to 27 August 1993. It is based on written information gathered from various sources, in particular Israeli press reports and articles appearing in the Arab press published in the occupied territories. It also includes oral information received by the Special Committee through testimonies of persons having first-hand experience of the human rights situation in the occupied territories.*

*"The report of the Special Committee indicates a worsening of the critical situation of human rights in the occupied territories resulting from the severe repression of the uprising that began five and one-half years ago. It states that violence, as well as the climate of fear prevailing in the territories, stems from the illegal policy of annexation and settlement pursued by the Government of Israel since 1967 and the human rights violations that have been taking place since that time.*

*"According to the report, the civilian population of the occupied territories has continued to suffer heavy casualties from the disproportionately harsh and violent methods employed by the Israeli authorities to repress the popular uprising. Those measures have resulted in an increased loss of life and severe injuries among civilians, including small children, who clearly do not represent a security threat, the report says. The continued deployment of undercover units, a further relaxation of the rules for opening fire, and the use of live ammunition as well as rubber and plastic-coated bullets, have led to more than a 180 per cent increase in fatalities among children alone.*

*"The physical and psychological stress that the population of the occupied territories endured had been compounded by a series of unprecedented repressive measures taken by the Israeli authorities during the period under review. At the end of 1992, the army started to carry out a new form of collective punishment, which consists of destroying entire neighbourhoods with heavy artillery fire during searches for wanted persons. Scores of innocent people were left homeless in the searches, which were aimed at capturing a single fugitive, the report states.*

*"The increase in violence in both the occupied territories and Israel led the Israeli authorities to impose a complete closure of the territories on 31 March 1993. That action virtually divided the occupied territories into five distinct areas, namely, the Gaza strip, the northern West Bank, the southern West Bank, Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.*

*"The closure has created enormous hardships for the people living in the occupied territories and has deprived about 120,000 persons of their means of livelihood, the report goes on to say. It has had a negative impact on the health situation in the occupied territories, since the most important medical facilities serving Palestinians are located in Jerusalem. Students have been prevented from attending classes in areas in which they do not reside and more than 25 per cent of the student population was unable to register in schools and universities. Access to both Muslim and Christian holy sites was also affected by the closure.*

*"The report notes that, unlike the settlers, the population of the occupied territories has systematically been denied access to water*

*resources. The deliberate policy of economic pressure such as the uprooting of trees, tax raids and administrative harassment, has continued to be applied. Although no new settlements are known to have been established during the current reporting period, the expansion of already existing ones has continued. Furthermore, the administration of justice in the occupied territories is characterized by a lack of due process of law and a frequent absence of basic legal safeguards for the Arab population. The practice of torture and ill-treatment during interrogation and after sentencing has continued.*

*"The report stresses that the circumstances faced by the Palestinian and other Arabs, the critical living conditions and the climate of unprecedented violence prevailing in the occupied territories presents a serious threat to peace and stability in the region and international security in general. The international community must convince Israel to end its practices affecting the human rights situation in the region.*

*"In the preparation of the report, the Special Committee benefited from the cooperation of the Governments of Egypt, Jordan, and the Syrian Arab Republic and from the representatives of Palestinian representatives. However, the Government of Israel has continued to withhold its cooperation, the reports states.*

*"Also before the Special Political Committee are seven reports of the Secretary-General on implementation of 1992 Assembly resolutions on Israeli practices in the occupied territories (documents A/48/537-543). The Assembly had condemned, among other things, the Israeli policies and practices of collective punishment, destruction and demolition of houses. It had also strongly condemned repression against and closing of educational institutions in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, as well as the arming of Israeli settlers in the occupied territories. The Assembly reiterated its call upon all States and international organizations not to recognize any changes carried out by Israel in the occupied territories and to avoid actions that might be used by Israel in its pursuit of the policies of annexation and colonization (resolution 47/70 A).*

*"The Assembly condemned once again the failure of Israel to acknowledge the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories, including Jerusalem (resolution 47/70 B). It demanded that Israel comply strictly with its international obligations in accordance with the principles of international law and that it desist from taking any action that would result in changing the legal status, geographical nature or demographic composition of the occupied territories (resolution 47/70 C).*

*"The Assembly also called upon Israel to release all Palestinians and other Arabs arbitrarily detained or imprisoned (resolution 47/70 D). It demanded that the Government of Israel rescind the illegal measures taken by its authorities in deporting Palestinians and facilitate their immediate return (resolution 47/70 E). It strongly condemned Israel for its refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Security Council, for its decision to impose its laws and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan and for its attempts to impose Israeli citizenship and identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan (resolution 47/70 F). The Assembly also condemned Israeli policies and practices against Palestinian students and faculty members in schools, universities and other educational institutions, especially the firing on defenceless students.*

*"The reports state that on 13 April, the Secretary-General wrote to Israel's Foreign Minister requesting information on steps Israel had taken or envisaged to implement the resolutions. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the reports." (See GA/SPD/20)*

## II. UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL REPORTS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Commissioner-General of UNRWA submitted his annual report to the General Assembly (A/48/13). A number of other reports relevant to the same item were submitted by the Secretary-General. The item was allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the

General Assembly. The reports were summarized as follows in a press release issued at Headquarters (GA/SPD/18):

*"The report of the Commissioner-General includes a study of the situation of Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and focuses attention on their deteriorating standard of living. It analyses the impact of the closure imposed by Israel on the occupied territories and the Agency's emergency response to the crisis. The financial shortfall facing the Agency in 1993 and its activities in the three main programme areas of education, health and relief and social services are also examined.*

*"The report contains, for the first time, a preface, which describes the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Government of Israel as a turning point in the region in general and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in particular. 'I therefore hope that this report covers an era which is gone forever', the Commissioner-General states. 'The real significance of this report lies in the fact that it underscores how vital it was to reach such an agreement.'*

*"On the issue of the financial shortfall confronting the Agency in 1993, the report points out that the $28.5 million deficit had been reduced to some $4 million, mainly through austerity measures, administrative savings and additional contributions. In the current environment, the Commissioner-General is optimistic that UNRWA would receive increased contributions, as it would reflect donor support for the peace process.*

*"In a letter dated 6 October 1993 from the Chairman of the Advisory Commission of UNRWA to the Commissioner-General, contained in the report, the Commission expresses appreciation for the Agency's programme of assistance for over 2.8 million Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Commission welcomes, as a first step, the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the PLO and Israel. It states that, in order to ensure the further progress of the peace process, it is imperative that a significant improvement in the social and welfare services and the daily life of the Palestinians in the occupied territories be achieved as a matter of urgency.*

*"In the report's introduction the Commissioner-General states that, despite the peace negotiations, there was a serious deterioration in the living conditions of the Palestinian people culminating in some of the highest fatality figures recorded in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the intifadah and Israeli countermeasures.*

*"The security situation began to deteriorate in late September 1992, when Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons in the occupied territory and inside Israel began a hunger strike over conditions of detention. At the end of the year under review there were an estimated 13,000 Palestinians in detention in the occupied territory and Israel. The situation worsened further in mid-December 1992, following the decision of the Government of Israel to deport more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territory into the Israeli security zone in occupied southern Lebanon. Among the deportees were 16 UNRWA staff members.*

*"Following incidents of violence, including the killing of two Israeli policemen, Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. UNRWA responded to the resulting hardship by distributing food to nearly 80,000 persons. The March closure of the occupied territory continued throughout the remainder of the period under review and resulted in increasing hardship for the 130,000 Palestinians who were suddenly cut off from the approximately $2.75 million per day in wages previously earned in Israel. Prior to the closure, more than one third of the gross national product (GNP) of the West Bank and half of the GNP of the Gaza Strip were from income derived in Israel, primarily from wage labour.*

*"The closure was accompanied by severe security measures, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in 29 killed in May 1993, the highest in a single month since the beginning of the intifadah and Israeli countermeasures in December 1987. During the period under review, Israel's security forces were responsible for the deaths of 80 Palestinians from the West Bank, including eight children, and 120 persons from the Gaza Strip, among them 28 children. Attacks by Israeli settlers and armed civilians resulted in six Palestinian deaths. The safety of UNRWA staff*

*serving in the occupied territory continued to cause concern. Two Agency staff were shot and killed in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli security forces and others have been subjected to beatings, threats, insults, intimidation and temporary detention.*

*"The Agency sent a special mission to Kuwait from July to September 1992 to assess the situation of the 25,000 Palestinians living there, the report states. It was disappointed that its efforts with concerned Governments on behalf of those Palestinians remaining in Kuwait under difficult circumstances had so far met with only limited success.*

*"According to the report, 2.8 million registered Palestine refugees were living in the Agency's five field operations, with access to UNRWA schools and training centres, health centres and specialist clinics, and basic food and clothing when they had no resources of their own. Socio-economic conditions for most Palestinian refugees in Lebanon remained precarious, as a consequence of the overall weakness of the Lebanese economy. In Jordan, the absorption of large numbers of unemployed persons, including many Palestinian returnees from the Gulf States, posed a big challenge to the economy. With 1.07 million registered persons, Jordan continued to host the largest number of Palestinian refugees in the Agency's five field operations. The Agency's operations in Syria continued to function well, with no major problems, the report says.*

*"In addition to its regular activities in Lebanon and the occupied territory, UNRWA continued a programme of extraordinary measures to alleviate the difficulties experienced by the refugee community in the context of the intifadah and the Israeli response. The emergency measures included food distribution, cash assistance, the operation of afternoon medical clinics and the provision of large quantities of self-learning materials for elementary and school pupils.*

*"The report on the financial situation of UNRWA (document A/48/13/Add.13) states that the Agency was left with a deficit of $2.6 million in 1992, reducing the working capital reserve from $33.7 million to $31.1 million. The financial prospects for 1993 were unfavourable owing to the fact that the growth of contributions was not keeping pace with the growing number of beneficiaries. The Agency's total regular budget for the biennium 1994-1995 amounts to $632.3 million, compared to the 1992-1993 approved budget of $572 million.*

*"The report of the Working Group on the financing of UNRWA (document A/48/554) states that the Agency ended the first year of the 1992-1993 biennium with a deficit of $10.2 million in its programmes. The working capital is only sufficient to cover expenditures for the Agency's regular operations for about five or six weeks.*

*"The Secretary-General's report on the revenues derived from Palestine refugee properties (document A/48/275) provides information on his efforts for the protection and administration of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel and to establish a fund for the receipt of income derived from it, on behalf of the rightful owners, as requested by General Assembly resolution 47/69 H, which also deplores Israel's refusal to cooperate with the Secretary-General. The report includes Israel's position, which among other things, states that the resolution demonstrates the sponsors' misuse of the General Assembly for the goals of the ongoing propaganda against it.*

*"The report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine (document A/48/474) states that the Commission had been unable to find means of achieving progress in implementing a 1948 Assembly resolution which called for Palestine refugees to be given the choice between peaceful repatriation and compensation. The circumstances that had limited its possibilities of action had remained essentially unchanged.*

*"The Secretary-General's report on grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training for Palestine refugees (document A/48/372) states that Japan, Switzerland, Iran and the Netherlands offered scholarships to Palestine refugee students through UNRWA's university scholarship programme. During the 1992-1993 academic year, UNESCO awarded 13 scholarships to Palestinian students from its regular programme and budget, and four scholarships under its Participation Programme.*

*"The Secretary-General's report on Palestine refugees in the territory occupied by Israel since*

*1967 (document A/48/373) states that the Israeli authorities have continued to demolish and seal refugee shelters in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on punitive grounds. No new plots of land in housing projects in the Gaza Strip were allocated by the Israeli authorities for refugees living in camps.*

*"The report says that the Secretary-General is unable at present to comply with the General Assembly request contained in resolution 47/69 E of 14 December 1992 asking him to resume issuing identification cards to all Palestine refugees and their descendants in the occupied territory.*

*"A note verbale of the Permanent Representative of Israel dated 15 June contained in the report states that the request of the Secretary-General to resume issuing identity cards was 'yet another indication of the resolution's patent political bias'. He states that the resolution is 'unbalanced and distorted' as it intentionally ignores 'the improved living conditions in the Gaza district since 1967'.*

*"Since 1967, Israel has initiated community development projects in the Gaza district enabling some 20,000 families, approximately 150,000 people, to leave the refugee camps on a voluntary basis and relocate to nearby residential areas. Israel's vital role in planning and implementing these housing projects has been recognized by both the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner in their respective reports.*

*"In the report on the resumption of ration distribution to Palestine refugees (document A/48/374), the Secretary-General states that the Agency has continued to provide food assistance to the most needy sector of the refugee population, who numbered 179,397 persons in December 1992. It is also continuing the emergency distribution of basic commodities, such as flour, rice, sugar, animal protein and skim milk to those in need, including non-registered Palestinians in the occupied territory and Lebanon. However, due to the lack of additional resources, the Agency could not consider the resumption of a general distribution of basic food rations to all refugees.*

*"The Secretary-General's report on the return of population and refugees displaced since 1967 (document A/48/375) states that 12,740 displaced registered refugees are known to have returned to the occupied territories since June 1967. The Agency is, however, unable to estimate the total number of displaced inhabitants, as it only kept records of registered refugees and did not always have complete information on the location of registered refugees.*

*"The Secretary-General's report on the protection of Palestine refugees (document A/48/376) is in pursuance of a General Assembly resolution in 1992 calling upon Israel to desist from acts of aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian population in Lebanon and demanding the release of Palestinian refugees and UNRWA employees.*

*"In a note verbale dated 15 June 1993, the Permanent Representative of Israel states that the resolution on the protection of Palestine refugees was 'hypocritical, anachronistic and out of place'. Despite Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in 1985, the resolution still blames Israel for the 'suffering' of the Palestinian Arabs in Lebanon, the note states.*

*"The report says UNRWA has continued to play an important role in helping to reduce tensions, to prevent maltreatment of the refugees and to assist them in coping with the quotidian difficulties under occupation. It has also protested to the Israeli authorities against excessive use of force, collective punishments, punitive demolitions, sealing of shelters and other such measures, as a failure on the part of the Israeli authorities to uphold standards required under international humanitarian law.*

*"In the report on the protection of Palestinian students and educational institutions and safeguarding UNRWA facilities in the occupied territory (document A/48/377), the Secretary-General reports on the follow up of a 1992 resolution of the General Assembly. The resolution condemned repeated Israeli raids on UNRWA facilities and deplored Israel's policies that have led to the prolonged closure of educational and vocational institutions, a large number of which are operated by the Agency, and the repeated disruption of medical services.*

*"The report says that for the period 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993, there were 263 cases of*

*unauthorized entry into UNRWA premises in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by the Israeli authorities. In the same period, 22 students and trainees at UNRWA educational institutions were killed and 1,116 injured by the Israeli authorities. Those casualties were attributable to beatings, tear-gas inhalation, rubber bullets and live ammunition.*

*"At the end of March 1993, the closure by the Israeli authorities of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from Israel and East Jerusalem adversely affected the number of trainees and staff who were able to attend the training centres. A preliminary analysis of achievement tests administered by UNRWA on students at the beginning of the academic year showed 'a detrimental effect on the educational performance of students'.*

*"The Secretary-General's report on establishing a University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds' (document A/48/431) says that a feasibility study was needed before an arts and science university for Palestine refugees could be established under the auspices of the United Nations. A highly qualified expert had been selected to visit the area and meet with the competent Israeli officials.*

*"The Permanent Representative of Israel says, in a letter to the Secretary-General, that the proposed visit of the expert to Israel 'would not serve any useful purpose'."*

## III. EXCERPT FROM COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS ON 4 OCTOBER 1993

*"...*

*"The Ministers and Heads of Delegation considered the recent developments concerning the question of Palestine and took note of the momentous event of 13 September 1993. They regarded the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-government Arrangements between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the government of Israel, as a positive step. In this regard, they reaffirmed that this step should lead expeditiously to a comprehensive, just and lasting solution on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425, and the full withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. They remain unflinching in their resolve to support the Palestinian people in their quest to achieve their inalienable rights including their right to establish a sovereign independent State on their own national territory. They reaffirmed the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine and stressed the need for an effective and broad role of the United Nations in implementing the agreement and in providing all kinds of assistance to the Palestinian people." (See A/48/484-S/26552, para. 3)*

## IV. EXCERPT FROM DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GROUP OF 77 ADOPTED AT THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT NEW YORK ON 5 OCTOBER 1993

*"...*

*"The Ministers considered the recent development concerning the question of Palestine and took note of the momentous event of 13 September 1993. They regarded the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel as an important first step. In this regard,*

*they reaffirmed that this important step should lead to the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425 and on the formula of 'Land for Peace'.*

*"The Ministers reaffirmed their support of the Palestinian people as they strive to attain their inalienable rights, including the right to establish an independent State on the Palestinian occupied territory, including Arab Jerusalem. They also reaffirmed the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the Question of Palestine. The Ministers called upon the international community, especially the developed countries, the United Nations and multilateral finance and development institutions, to fully support the implementation of the agreement in all possible ways. In this regard, they welcomed the recent initial commitments made." (See A/48/485, paras. 74-75)*

## V. EXCERPT FROM COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES, CYPRUS, 21-25 OCTOBER 1993

*"Reviewing international developments in relation to the Middle East, Heads of Government welcomed the signing on 13 September 1993 of the Declaration of Principles by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization as representing an historic contribution to advancing reconciliation, peace and security in the region. They expressed the hope that the momentum for peace would be sustained and that negotiations involving all parties in the Middle East would lead to a just and comprehensive settlement in the interest of all the people of the region." (See A/48/564)*

## VI. UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL ANNOUNCES PEACE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW HOSPITAL IN GAZA STRIP

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 7 October 1993 (See PAL/1805):

*"The Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Ilter Türkmen, announced at a meeting here yesterday the introduction of a major new agency initiative, the peace implementation programme, to support the Middle East peace process.*

*"The Commissioner-General, in remarks to the UNRWA's Advisory Commission, said that the programme's priorities were to enhance the social and economic lives of Palestine refugees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the coming months and included construction as well as social development projects. He reported that the Agency was already moving ahead with major construction projects which will improve services and infrastructure and create employment. While that major initiative was being launched, Mr. Türkmen said that 'current services should not suffer and that gaps in existing services should be filled as soon as possible'.*

*"The Agency could take quick action on a number of fronts, Mr. Türkmen said. Additional staff in education and health could improve services by reducing overcrowding in schools and decreasing patient-to-doctor ratios. New schools and health clinics could be built and others could be refurbished. The Commissioner-General said that new financing was needed to launch comprehensive shelter rehabilitation and reconstruction for about 7,000 families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.*

*"Mr. Türkmen announced that he would join a senior representative of the European Community at the ground-breaking ceremony of the Gaza General Hospital on 18 October. The*

*Commissioner-General also identified as Agency priorities enterprise development through business loans and graduate training programmes.*

*"'The Gaza Strip is suffering from almost unimaginable environmental degradation which affects not only the health of the people, but also the very future of Gaza itself', the Commissioner-General said. He reported that a team of international experts had recently completed their assessment of the needs in that sector and that the Agency would soon complete feasibility studies for action which would be presented to donors for implementation.*

*"Mr. Türkmen reported that the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Yasser Arafat, during their meeting last week in Tunis, said that the UNRWA should expand its activities, as well as carry on its traditional role. The UNRWA had established good working contacts with the World Bank, the Commissioner-General told Commission members. The Agency had been invited to second two of its staff to the World Bank Mission, which would arrive in Jerusalem on 11 October to begin a three-week study on emergency short-term assistance and a long-term plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.*

*"While the international focus was now on the occupied territory, the Commissioner-General said that the needs of refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria must not be neglected and vigorous efforts to improve their living conditions needed to be made. He reported that the UNRWA's projected $28.5 million cash shortfall at the beginning of 1993 had been reduced to an estimated $4 million, as a result of austerity measures, administrative savings and additional contributions, and he was optimistic that, in the new atmosphere, further funds would be forthcoming.*

*"The UNRWA Advisory Commission, composed of 10 Governments, and chaired by Ambassador Kunisada Kume of Japan, yesterday expressed the hope that recent developments would usher in a new era in the region. In a formal letter addressed to the Commissioner-General, the Advisory Commission emphasized that it was 'imperative that a significant improvement in the social and welfare services and the daily life of the Palestinians in the occupied territories be achieved as a matter of urgency'."*

On 18 October 1993, UNRWA issued the following press release:

*"A major construction project for a 232-bed hospital in the Gaza Strip was launched in Gaza today by the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Ilter Türkmen, and the representative of the European Community to the occupied territories, Tomas Dupla del Moral.*

*"Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony near Khan Younis, Mr. Türkmen said that UNRWA was 'keenly aware of the urgent need for better health services in Gaza as well as the poor quality and limited capacity of available hospital resources, with a bed/patient ratio of 1.1 per 1,000', as compared with the World Health organization (WHO) minimum of 2 beds per 1,000 persons. The new hospital will increase the number of available hospital beds in Gaza by 25 per cent.*

*"'Without the European Community's generous contribution towards the construction costs of the hospital, the project would not have seen the light of day', the Commissioner-General said. The construction costs alone will be over $20 million.*

*"In addition to the services which will be available once the hospital has been commissioned, the construction and finishing phase will provide jobs to about 1,000 persons directly or indirectly. About 600 employees will work in the hospital after its completion. 'The project is not only related to health care, but also to income-generation and job creation at a very depressed time in the economy of the Gaza Strip and is a good example of the international effort to support the peace process', Mr. Türkmen said.*

*"Mr. Dupla del Moral said the occasion was the first time following the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organization Declaration of Principles 'when international solidarity with Gaza happens on the ground, not with words but with deeds. The UNRWA has become one of the most important pillars of the Palestinian community. This is nowhere more visible than in Gaza'.*

*"During his remarks to over 300 guests who attended the ceremony, the Commissioner-General stressed that 'this hospital is being built in response to the needs of the Palestinian community and is the product of close involvement of the Palestinians. It is their hospital. They are building it and they will administer it'. Mr. Türkmen thanked some European Community member countries which have pledged funds directly to UNRWA for the new hospital as well as other donors which have also responded generously.*

*"Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, President of the Red Crescent Society in the Gaza Strip, paid tribute to UNRWA during the groundbreaking ceremony. 'I know that this new hospital would not have been possible had it not been for the sincere and continuous efforts by the Commissioner-General and his staff to try and pave the ground to make this project a reality', he said.*

*"Dr. Riad Za'noun, Director of the Palestinian Health Council in the Gaza Strip, said that the new hospital was the first to be built in Gaza in 25 years and thanked UNRWA and the European Community for their efforts to improve health services in Gaza. Khader Fahmi Abu Sha'ban, Director of the Islamic Waqf Department in the Gaza Strip, which has leased the land on which the hospital is being built to UNRWA, also attended today's ceremony.*

*"During the ceremony, the Commissioner-General pointed out that UNRWA is currently upgrading its health infrastructure and programmes in the Gaza Strip, especially in primary health care, in coordination with the Palestinians. The new hospital will be part of a network in which the Agency's health clinics and other services will play an important role."*

## VII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

In the course of October, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. Monthly Human Rights Report, published by Stephen Bowen and Raji Sourani, Gaza Centre for Rights and Law. Available from: Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, Iman Building, Rimal, P.O. Box 1274, Gaza Strip.

2. La Paix en Mouvement, article on Palestine available in September/ October issue. Available from: 139, Boulevard Victor Hugo, F-93-400 Saint Ouen, CCP 780-56 Z, France.

3. Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, available from: The American Educational Trust, P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.

4. ADC Times, publication of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Available from: 4201 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20008, United States of America.

5. Israel and Palestine Political Report devoted to "The Israel-PLO Accord - A New Era", available from: Magelan and Association Mashdek Développement, ISSN 0294 1341, Boite Postale 130, 75463 Paris CEDEX 10, France.

6. The Middle East, monthly publication available from: IC Publications Ltd., 7 Coldbath Square, London EC1R 4LQ, United Kingdom.

7. Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding, briefing paper entitled "From Shamir to Rabin: What chance for peace?", available from: 21, Collingham Road, London SW5 ONV, United Kingdom.

8. Middle East International, biweekly publication, available from: P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.

9. The Other Front, weekly bulletin on developments in Israeli society, available from: The Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

10. The Other Israel, newsletter of the Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, available from: P.O. Box 2542, Holon, Israel 58125.

11. "Surveillance and Defamation, Arab-American Political Rights in Times of Crisis", special report of the Arab-American Institute, available from: 918 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Suite 601, Washington, D.C. 20077-2505.

12. Samed, Palestinian Prison Voices, Mandela Institute for Political Prisoners, available from: P.O. Box 19543, Jerusalem, Israel.

13. April 17, quarterly publication by the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem.

14. News from Within, newsletter of the Alternative Information Center, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem, Vol. IX, No. 9 containing an article on "The Oslo Agreement".

15. North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (NACC), The Fax Tree, "Special Report on Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles", available from: NACC, 1747 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20009.

16. Palestine Human Rights Information Center (PHRIC) of the Arab Studies Society, "PHRIC Statement: Human Rights Issues After the Agreement on the Declaration of Principles", available from: PHRIC, P.O. Box 20479, Jerusalem.

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94-01858

# I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Committee met on 17 November 1993, at which time it adopted its report to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. The report contained the following recommendations:

*"The Committee welcomed the peace process started at Madrid in October 1991. In September 1993, the Committee welcomed the exchange of letters of mutual recognition between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and the subsequent signing by representatives of the two sides of the 'Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements', as an important step towards the attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and other relevant United Nations resolutions. The Committee calls for intensified support and assistance by the international community to the Palestinian people under its recognized leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organization, in order to ensure the successful implementation of the agreements reached.*

*"The Committee reaffirms once again the permanent responsibility of the United Nations with respect to the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all its aspects. The Committee believes that the United Nations, which is playing a central and increasing role in helping to solve many of the world's conflicts, has an essential contribution to make to building peace in the Middle East region. The Committee stresses the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the peace process and in the process of building the forthcoming Palestinian National Authority as well as in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people in all needed fields.*

*"As the organ of the General Assembly dealing with the question of Palestine, the Committee believes that it can make a valuable and positive contribution to United Nations endeavours during the transitional period by mobilizing international opinion and action for its successful outcome and in support of the Palestinian people until a final settlement is achieved. The Committee, accordingly, proposes to devote a major part of its future programme of work to making a concrete contribution in this regard with the assistance of the Division for Palestinian Rights. The Committee calls on the General Assembly to express its support for the work of the Committee and the Division in order to facilitate their task, and would welcome a consensus in this regard.*

*"The Committee considers that a broadening of its membership to include countries which support its objectives but have not hitherto participated in its work, would greatly enhance the contribution of the General Assembly to the efforts to promote peace at this important stage.*

*"The Committee considers that the following priority tasks require immediate and sustained attention in its programme of work for the coming year:*

*"a) Promoting support for the ongoing peace process and for the 'Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-government Arrangements', and following closely the developments and monitoring the situation on the ground in order to promote the effective implementation of the agreements reached and the full realization of Palestinian rights;*

*"b) Promoting intensified assistance to the Palestinian people by the United Nations system as a whole, as well as other donors, for immediate relief and for nation-building;*

*"c) Encouraging constructive consideration and debate of the major issues to be negotiated at a later stage with a view to promoting a final settlement based on international legitimacy in accordance with Security Council resolution 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and other relevant United Nations resolutions.*

*"The Committee believes that the collection, exchange and dissemination of accurate and timely information are of great importance in these endeavours and reaffirms the essential role of the Division for Palestinian Rights as a focal point in this regard. The Committee welcomes the initial establishment in the Division of the*

*computer-based United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL) and attaches great importance to the early and effective implementation of the system in all its aspects, and its further development to meet evolving needs. The Committee requests the Division to include in the system all relevant documentary, analytical and statistical information and to cooperate with other users and sources of information with a view to making the system as comprehensive and useful as possible.*

*"The Committee considers that non-governmental organizations have played a significant and constructive role over the years in solidarity with the Palestinian national struggle and in support of the work of the Committee. The Committee attaches the greatest importance to the continued and intensified mobilization of NGOs throughout the transitional period in order to monitor the relevant developments, to promote the full exercise of Palestinian rights in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and to provide the needed economic and other assistance for institution-building. The Committee will seek to encourage participation in these endeavours by additional NGOs, particularly those active in the general fields of development and human rights. In consultation with the Division for Palestinian Rights and the NGO coordinating committees, the Committee will explore ways to enhance the effectiveness and impact of United Nations-sponsored NGO meetings and to promote intensified action by the NGO network.*

*"The Committee is of the view that its programme of regional seminars and NGO meetings has provided a useful forum for a concrete and constructive analysis and debate of the most important issues concerning the question of Palestine, in particular thanks to the regular participation of Palestinian and Israeli personalities, together with experts, political and religious figures, media representatives and others, and has helped in educating public opinion and facilitating dialogue. The Committee intends to continue this programme in light of the new situation and considers that in the period ahead these meetings can provide a useful mechanism for in-depth consideration of the most important issues relevant to the process of transition of powers. Attention will be paid to structuring the format of these meetings for maximum usefulness, including the possibility of co-sponsoring them with academic institutions, NGOs, or others. The Committee is also of the view that as soon as conditions permit, one such meeting could be held in Gaza or Jericho. The Committee has also taken note of the proposal that it consider convening a seminar on Palestinian needs in light of the new developments, and will organize such a seminar as soon as possible at an appropriate venue.*

*"The Committee considers that the publications and studies prepared by the Division for Palestinian Rights have performed a valuable function by providing accurate information on the various aspects of the question of Palestine and a record of the activities sponsored by the Committee. The Committee considers that this aspect of the programme of work will be enhanced by the establishment of UNISPAL and will be of great usefulness to the Committee and to other users in the time ahead. In particular, the Committee considers that the bulletins of the Division should be expanded and restructured as follows:*

*"a) The monthly bulletin on activities by the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs will be enhanced to provide a comprehensive coverage of all relevant resolutions, statements and decisions, as well as summaries of the most significant activities;*

*"b) The bulletin entitled 'Approaches towards the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of Palestine' will contain a compilation of statements, reports and developments related to the ongoing bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations;*

*"c) The bulletin monitoring developments in the occupied Palestinian territory will become a chronology, in summary form, of all relevant developments in the occupied territory and outside, based on press reports.*

*"The Committee also considers that the studies, information notes, reports and other material published by the Division should focus specifically on the main issues to be addressed by the Committee in order to enhance their usefulness at this important stage.*

*"The Committee also considers that the Special Information Programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information has been useful in raising the awareness of the international community concerning the complexities of the question and the situation in the Middle East in general. The Committee believes that the Programme has also contributed to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of the peace process. As the road to the establishment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East remains a long one, the Committee believes that the work of the United Nations in the field of information related to the Question of Palestine will become even more important. The Programme should follow and reflect realities related to the new experiences of the Palestinian people, provide assistance in the field of Palestinian media development and continue to disseminate information about the just cause of the Palestinian people, in addition to continuing its support of dialogue in the effort to build peace. During its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/64 C by an overwhelming majority. It is the Committee's hope that this year, in light of the new situation, the Assembly will be able to adopt the resolution on the Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine by consensus.*

*"The Committee will continue to strive to achieve maximum effectiveness in the implementation of its mandate and to adjust its work programme in light of developments, in order to contribute, to the extent possible, to the realization of the common United Nations objective of achieving a just and lasting solution of the question of Palestine." (See A/48/35, paras. 85 to 96)*

## II. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, 29 NOVEMBER 1993

On 29 November 1993, the International Day of Solidarity was observed at United Nations Headquarters, New York and at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna, as well as in several other cities.

All States Members of the United Nations, specialized agencies and observers were invited to attend the solemn meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People which took place in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977.

At that meeting, statements were made by: Kéba Birane Cissé (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee; Samuel R. Insanally (Guyana), President of the General Assembly; the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali; and the President of the Security Council for the month of November, José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde).

The Observer of Palestine read out a message from Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Also, Stanley Kalpagé (Sri Lanka) made a statement as Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

In addition, the representative of Indonesia, Nugroho Wisnumurti read out a message from President Suharto in his capacity as Chairman of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement. A further message was delivered by Jamsheed K.A. Marker (Pakistan) on behalf of Sandar Asif Ali, Foreign Minister of Pakistan and Chairman of the Twenty-first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

The Observer of the League of Arab States, Mahmoud Aboul-Nasr, read out a message from its Secretary-General Ahmed Ismat Abdul Meguid. A further statement was made by Mr. Larry Ekin, the representative of the International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine.

Concluding statements were made by the Chairman of the Committee and Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Messages to commemorate the occasion were received from heads of State, heads of Government, Foreign Ministers, as well as the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and UNESCO.

Still further messages were received from NGOs.

All statements and messages received will be published in extenso in a special bulletin prepared by the Division for Palestinian Rights.

In further commemoration of the International Day, the Committee arranged the screening of a series of films during the week beginning 29 November in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium.

In addition, a cultural exhibit was presented by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations in the Public Lobby at United Nations Headquarters from 29 November to 3 December 1993.

## III. DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE OPENS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On 29 November in the afternoon, the debate on the Question of Palestine began in the General Assembly. In accordance with past practice, the item was taken up directly in the plenary and was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Rapporteur of the Committee introduced the annual report. The full text of both statements is given below:

*Statement by the Chairman*

*"It is an honour for me, in my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to address once again the General Assembly on this most important item entitled "The Question of Palestine". I would like to seize this opportunity to express the Committee's most sincere congratulations to you, Mr. President, for your election to the presidency of the Assembly and our complete trust that your knowledge of this difficult issue and your diplomatic skills will successfully guide our deliberations in the coming days.*

*"We live in extraordinary times which challenge our imagination and wisdom to comprehend the multi-dimensional changes that are taking place and to steer the best course in the interest of peace. The recent unprecedented developments in the Middle East peace process, which culminated in the signing in Washington on 13 September 1993, of the Declaration of Principles for Interim Self-government Arrangements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, have opened a new chapter in the long history of the question of Palestine. The handshake between Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat, has been a compelling symbol of the possibility of peace between bitter enemies once it is recognized that deep-seated conflicts cannot be resolved through the force of arms, and there is the political will to negotiate a settlement, difficult and painful as that process might be.*

*"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has welcomed and supported these developments as a step of great importance towards the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and the realization of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. The Committee joins the overwhelming majority of the international community in praising the courage and statesmanship of the parties to this historic agreement and urges them to continue their efforts so as to ensure that the process that has been initiated will lead to a definitive peace in the region, in the mutual interest of all the peoples concerned.*

*"For many years, our Committee as the primary United Nations organ concerned with the question of Palestine, has called for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict based on the relevant United Nations resolutions and on the following essential principles: withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem; respect for the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized boundaries; and the recognition and exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to*

*self-determination. Through the Committee's programme of regional seminars and NGO meetings, the publications and studies of the Division for Palestinian Rights, and the special information programme of the Department of Public Information, consistent efforts have been made not only to inform and educate public opinion with regard to the various aspects of the question of Palestine but also to encourage dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis and to mobilize international support for a just peace.*

*"The Committee believes that these efforts, together with those of governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and indeed of the international community as a whole, have helped pave the way for the recent developments in the peace process which became possible after the fundamental changes on the international political scene in recent years and the global trend towards the peaceful settlement of conflicts.*

*"Despite the renewed sense of hope engendered by the evolution in the peace process, however, we should not delude ourselves that the role of the international community and of the United Nations, and within it, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is thereby accomplished; or that only questions of economic and technical assistance remain. To the contrary, it is generally recognized that the new developments are the beginning of a difficult transition process which has many pitfalls and which will necessitate the continued vigilance and support of the international community as a whole, and the United Nations in particular, if it is to succeed. Many sensitive aspects relating to the implementation of the Declaration such as Israeli withdrawal, as well as permanent status arrangements regarding Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements, borders, and other issues affecting the entire region and beyond remain to be negotiated.*

*"As affirmed by the General Assembly most recently in resolution 47/64 A, the United Nations has a permanent responsibility with respect to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy. The Committee stresses the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the peace process and in the process of building the Palestinian national institutions as well as in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people in all needed fields. In this regard, the Committee has welcomed the steps taken by the Secretary-General in developing a concerted United Nations response in support of the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. The Committee also welcomes the reaffirmation of continued support for the Palestinian people by donor countries, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.*

*"With regard to its own role, the Committee believes that it can be particularly useful in the period ahead, in terms of mobilizing international opinion and action in support of the ongoing peace process and the Declaration of Principles; monitoring developments in order to promote the full implementation of the agreements reached; promoting intensified international assistance to the Palestinian people for reconstruction and nation-building; and encouraging constructive consideration and debate of the major issues to be negotiated at a later stage with a view to promoting a final settlement based on international legitimacy and the relevant United Nations resolutions. Details about the Committee's proposed programme of work in pursuit of these objectives are contained in its report, which will be introduced shortly by the Rapporteur.*

*"The Committee calls on the General Assembly, taking into account the new climate that has been established and the direction that the Committee intends to take in the coming year, to express once again its full support for the work of the Committee and that of the Division for Palestinian Rights as well as for the special programme of the Department of Public Information, in order to enable them to make the most effective possible contribution to the process underway. The Committee also hopes that additional countries which support its objectives but which have not so far participated in its work, will consider joining it in order to make it an even more effective instrument of the General Assembly in pursuing the common goal of a peace with justice in Palestine, and the Middle East region as a whole."*

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*Statement by the Rapporteur*

*"It is an honour for me, in my capacity as Rapporteur, to present to the General Assembly the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People covering its work during the past year (A/48/35).*

*"In 1993, the Committee, under the able guidance of its Chairman, Ambassador Kéba Birane Cissé, carried out its mandate in conformity with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. The report covers the developments in the region and the activities of the Committee in the year since the last report, and takes into account the new situation with regard to the peace process, which evolved while the Committee was ending its work for the year.*

*"The Committee has welcomed the exchange of letters of mutual recognition between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the subsequent signing by the representatives of the two sides of the 'Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-government Arrangements', providing for initial steps towards Palestinian self-government, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and a framework for negotiations leading to a permanent settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.*

*"Chapters II and III of the report are procedural and summarize the respective mandates of the Committee, the Division for Palestinian Rights and the Department of Public Information. They also give information on the organization of work of the Committee.*

*"The main body of the report is in Chapter IV, which gives an account of the action taken by the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights in implementation of their respective mandates. The chapter contains a concise review of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory from the end of the last reporting period until August 1993. The information is based on factual reports which reached the Committee from a variety of sources, such as Governments, NGOs, individual experts and the media. The Committee expressed its concern about the continued human rights violations in the occupied territory and the deteriorating economic situation. It noted the economic development programmes and projects undertaken by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, and welcomed the readiness of the Secretary-General to offer the parties every assistance within the context of the agreement that has been reached as well as the subsequent appointment of a high-level task force to focus on economic and social development. The Committee also welcomed the pledging conference on assistance to the Palestinian people, and stressed the importance of an effective role by the United Nations in this regard.*

*"As the General Assembly is aware, the Committee is mandated to report and make suggestions to the Assembly and the Security Council, on an ongoing basis, with regard to developments relating to the question of Palestine. In several letters, which have been issued as documents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council and which are listed in the report, the Chairman drew attention to serious and urgent events, and made recommendations for action by the United Nations, particularly with regard to ensuring the protection of Palestinians living under occupation and the observance of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Civilian Persons in Time of War.*

*"The Committee, in cooperation with the Division for Palestinian Rights, organized regional seminars and NGO symposia in North America, Europe and Africa, as well as an international meeting of NGOs. The Committee was encouraged by the active participation in these activities of prominent political personalities, parliamentarians, policy-makers and other experts, including Israelis and Palestinians, and of committed and knowledgeable representatives of non-governmental organizations. The Committee believes that these meetings make a positive contribution to peace efforts by providing a forum for a balanced and constructive discussion of the most important issues.*

*"Finally, the report describes very briefly the many activities of the Division for Palestinian Rights in the field of research, monitoring and publications and action taken for the establishment of a computer-based information system on the question of Palestine. It also describes the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.*

*"Chapter V of the report covers the work of the Department of Public Information in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/64 C including the publications and audio-visual activities of that Department as well as the journalists' encounters and the news mission to the area.*

*"The sixth and last chapter contains the recommendations of the Committee. These recommendations were drafted taking into account recent developments.*

*"The Committee welcomes the recent agreements as an important step towards the attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and towards the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. It reaffirms once again the permanent responsibility of the United Nations with respect to the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all its aspects, and stresses the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the peace process and in the process of building Palestinian institutions as well as in providing broad assistance in all needed fields.*

*"The Committee believes that it can make a valuable and positive contribution to the United Nations endeavours during the transitional period by mobilizing international opinion and action for its successful outcome and in support of the Palestinian people until a final settlement is achieved.*

*"The Committee believes that a broadening of its membership to include countries which support its objectives but have not participated thus far in its work, would greatly enhance the contribution of the General Assembly to the efforts to promote peace at this important stage.*

*"The Committee has identified the priority tasks that would require immediate and sustained attention in its programme of work for next year, which include the promotion of support for the ongoing peace process and the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-government Arrangements; intensified assistance to the Palestinian people; and encouraging constructive consideration of major issues in order to promote a final settlement based on international legitimacy.*

*"The Committee considers that the collection, exchange and dissemination of accurate and timely information are of great importance during this period and values the role of the Division for Palestinian Rights as a focal point in this regard.*

*"The Committee also considers that the NGOs have played a significant and constructive role over the years in solidarity with the Palestinian national struggle and in support of the work of the Committee. It attaches great importance to the contribution to be made by NGOs throughout the transitional period and will explore ways to involve additional NGOs in its work and to enhance the effectiveness and impact of the United Nations sponsored NGO meetings.*

*"The Committee also considers that the programme of regional seminars and NGO meetings has provided a useful forum for a concrete and constructive analysis and debate, in particular thanks to the regular participation of Israelis and Palestinians, and has helped in educating public opinion, and facilitating dialogue. The Committee intends to continue this programme in light of the new situation and will seek to further enhance the usefulness of these meetings.*

*"The Committee also considers that the Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information has been useful in raising the awareness of the international community concerning the complexities of the question and the situation in the Middle East. The Committee believes that the work of the United Nations in this field will become even more important and should be supported by the General Assembly in its current session.*

*"The Committee trusts that the Assembly will endorse its recommendations and support its work, as has happened every year since the Committee's establishment."*

## IV. SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORTS UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/64 D

General Assembly resolution 47/64 D of 11 December 1992 on the Question of Palestine, relating to peace efforts, had reaffirmed a number of principles for the achievement of comprehensive peace in the Middle East region and had requested the Secretary-General "to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, for the promotion of peace in the region, and to submit progress reports on developments in this matter."

In a brief report submitted on 19 November (A/48/607-S/26769), the Secretary-General reported on his correspondence with the Security Council and the parties concerned, and made the following observations:

> *"The United Nations has always supported a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), and taking into account the legitimate political right of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination.*
>
> *"In this connection, I have welcomed the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements (A/48/486-S/26560, annex) signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on 13 September 1993. It is to be hoped that that agreement will lead to a comprehensive peace in the region, acceptable to all the parties concerned.*
>
> *"The United Nations stands ready to lend its full support to the peace process. In this connection, the Organization has, over the past year, participated actively in the multilateral working groups established in the framework established at the Madrid Conference in 1991. Furthermore, to help sustain the momentum of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and in an effort to support the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, the United Nations has begun to enhance its economic and social assistance to the West Bank and Gaza. Those efforts will intensify in the months ahead." (See pp. 4 and 5, A/48/607-S/26769)*

## V. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

In the course of November, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. Monthly Human Rights Report, published by Stephen Bowen and Raji Sourani, Gaza Centre for Rights and Law. Available from: Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, Iman Building, Rimal, P.O. Box 1274, Gaza Strip.

2. La Paix en Mouvement, article on Palestine available in September/October issue. Available from: 139, Boulevard Victor Hugo, F-93-400 Saint Ouen, CCP 780-56 Z, France.

3. Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, available from: The American Educational Trust, P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.

4. ADC Times, publication of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Available from: 4201 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20008, United States of America.

5. Israel and Palestine Political Report devoted to "The Israel-PLO Accord - A New Era", available from: Magelan and Association Mashdek Développement, ISSN 0294 1341, Boite Postale 130, 75463 Paris CEDEX 10, France.

6. The Middle East, monthly publication available from: IC Publications Ltd., 7 Coldbath Square, London EC1R 4LQ, United Kingdom.

7. Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding, briefing paper entitled "From Shamir to Rabin: What chance for peace?", available from: 21, Collingham Road, London SW5 ONV, United Kingdom.

8. Middle East International, biweekly publication, available from: P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.

9. The Other Front, weekly bulletin on developments in Israeli society, available from: The Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

10. The Other Israel, newsletter of the Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, available from: P.O. Box 2542, Holon, Israel 58125.

11. "Surveillance and Defamation, Arab-American Political Rights in Times of Crisis", special report of the Arab-American Institute, available from: 918 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Suite 601, Washington, D.C. 20077-2505.

12. Samed, Palestinian Prison Voices, Mandela Institute for Political Prisoners, available from: P.O. Box 19543, Jerusalem, Israel.

13. April 17, quarterly publication by the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem.

14. News from Within, newsletter of the Alternative Information Center, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem, Vol. IX, No. 9 containing an article on "The Oslo Agreement".

15. North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (NACC), The Fax Tree, "Special Report on Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles", available from: NACC, 1747 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20009.

16. Palestine Human Rights Information Center (PHRIC) of the Arab Studies Society, "PHRIC Statement: Human Rights Issues After the Agreement on the Declaration of Principles", available from: PHRIC, P.O. Box 20479, Jerusalem.

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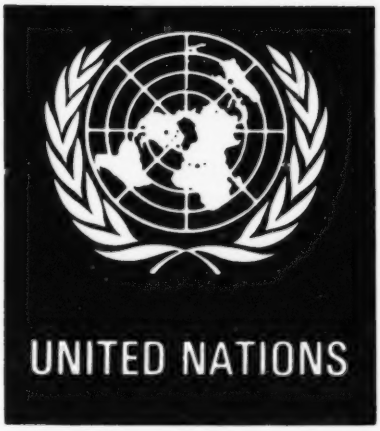


# DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

**December 1993**

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94-10770

# I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS FOUR RESOLUTIONS ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

The General Assembly considered item 35 on its agenda, entitled "Question of Palestine" at three meetings held on 29 and 30 November, and 20 December 1993. (For the verbatim records of the meetings, see A/48/PV.65, 66 and 85). On 20 December 1993, four resolutions were adopted relating to the mandates of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Division for Palestinian Rights and the Department of Public Information, as well as the peace process. A fifth draft resolution, concerning the intifadah, was not put to the vote at the request of the sponsors. (The texts of the five draft resolutions, including an indication of the sponsors, are contained in A/48/L.41, L.42, L.43, L.44, and L.45. For the statements introducing the debate on the item, see the November issue of this bulletin.)

The text of the resolutions, with an indication of the vote, is given below. Full details on the voting on these and other resolutions will be contained in a document to be issued by the Division for Palestinian Rights under the symbol A/AC.183/L.2/Add.14.

*48/158. Question of Palestine*

*A*

*Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolutions 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 3375 (XXX) and 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, 31/20 of 24 November 1976, 32/40 A of 2 December 1977, 33/28 A and B of 7 December 1978, 34/65 A of 29 November 1979 and 34/65 C of 12 December 1979, ES-7/2 of 29 July 1980, 35/169 A and C of 15 December 1980, 36/120 A and C of 10 December 1981, ES-7/4 of 28 April 1982, 37/86 A of 10 December 1982, 38/58 A of 13 December 1983, 39/49 A of 11 December 1984, 40/96 A of 12 December 1985, 41/43 A of 2 December 1986, 42/66 A of 2 December 1987, 43/175 A of 15 December 1988, 44/41 A of 6 December 1989, 45/67 A of 6 December 1990, 46/74 A of 11 December 1991 and 47/64 A of 11 December 1992,*

*"Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[1]*

*"Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes and Agreed Minutes by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on 13 December 1993 in Washington, D.C.,[2]*

*"Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility with respect to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,*

*"1. Expresses its appreciation to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly;*

*"2. Considers that the Committee can make a valuable and positive contribution to international efforts to promote the effective implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people during the transitional period;*

*"3. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee contained in paragraphs 85 to 96 of its report;[1]*

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/48/35).*

[2] *A/48/486-S/26560, annex.*

*"4. Requests the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate;*

*"5. Authorizes the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in light of developments, to give special emphasis to the need to mobilize support and assistance for the Palestinian people and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session and thereafter;*

*"6. Also requests the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation to non-governmental organizations in their contribution towards heightening international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and promoting support and assistance to meet the needs of the Palestinian people, and to take the necessary steps to involve additional NGOs in its work;*

*"7. Requests the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194 (III), as well as other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine, to continue to cooperate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation which they have at their disposal;*

*"8. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations, and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate;*

*"9. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the necessary facilities for the performance of its tasks."*

*Adopted on 20 December 1993*
*by a vote of 106 in favour,*
*3 against, 40 abstentions*

*B*

*Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[1]*

*"Taking note, in particular, of the relevant information contained in paragraphs 46 to 68 of that report,*

*"Recalling its resolutions 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, 33/28 C of 7 December 1978, 34/65 D of 12 December 1979, 35/169 D of 15 December 1980, 36/120 B of 10 December 1981, 37/86 B of 10 December 1982, 38/58 B of 13 December 1983, 39/49 B of 11 December 1984, 40/96 B of 12 December 1985, 41/43 B of 2 December 1986, 42/66 B of 2 December 1987, 43/175 B of 15 December 1988, 44/41 B of 6 December 1989, 45/67 B of 6 December 1990, 46/74 B of 11 December 1991 and 47/64 B of 11 December 1992,*

*"1. Notes with appreciation the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with its resolution 47/64 B;*

*"2. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat with the resources it requires, including the continuing development of the computer-based information system on the question of Palestine, and to ensure that it continues to discharge the tasks detailed in paragraph 1 of resolution 32/40 B, paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 34/65 D, paragraph 3 of resolution 40/96 B, paragraph 2 of resolution 42/66 B, paragraph 2 of resolution 44/41 B and paragraph 2 of resolution 46/74 B, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance;*

*"3. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure the continued cooperation of the Department of Public Information and other units of the Secretariat in enabling the Division to perform its tasks and in covering adequately the various aspects of the question of Palestine;*

*"4. Invites all Governments and organizations to lend their cooperation to the Committee and the Division in the performance of their tasks;*

*"5. Notes with appreciation the action taken by Member States to observe annually on 29 November the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and requests them to continue to give the widest possible publicity to the observance, and requests the Committee to continue to organize, as part of the observance of the Day of Solidarity, an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights in cooperation with the Office of the Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations."*

*Adopted on 20 December 1993*
*by a vote of 107 in favour,*
*2 against, 41 abstentions*

*C*

*Department of Public Information of the Secretariat*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[1]*

*"Taking note, in particular, of the information contained in paragraphs 71 to 84 of that report,*

*"Recalling its resolution 47/64 C of 11 December 1992,*

*"Convinced that the world-wide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of non-governmental organizations and institutions remain of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people,*

*"Aware of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization[2] and of its positive implications,*

*"1. Notes with appreciation the action taken by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in compliance with General Assembly resolution 47/64 C;*

*"2. Requests the Department of Public Information, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme on the question of Palestine for the biennium 1994-1995, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America, and in particular:*

*"(a) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine, including reports of the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organizations;*

*"(b) To continue to issue and update publications on the various aspects of the question of Palestine in all fields, including all information relating to the recent events concerning this question;*

*"(c) To expand its audiovisual material on the question of Palestine, including the production of such material;*

*"(d) To organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the area, including the occupied territories;*

*"(e) To organize international, regional and national encounters for journalists;*

*"(f) To provide, in cooperation with specialized agencies of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development."*

*Adopted on 20 December 1993*
*by a vote of 147 in favour*
*2 against, 2 abstentions*

*D*

*Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine*

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 47/64 D of 11 December 1992,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General of 19 November 1993,[3]

"*Stressing* that achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine, will constitute a significant contribution to international peace and security,

"*Noting* the convening at Madrid, on 30 October 1991, of the Peace Conference on the Middle East and the subsequent bilateral negotiations, as well as meetings of the multilateral working groups,

"*Noting also* that the United Nations has participated as a full, extraregional participant in the work of the multilateral working groups,

"*Aware* of the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, as the representative of the Palestinian people, and the signing between the two parties of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements[4] in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, as well as their subsequent negotiations,

"*Welcoming* the convening of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993,

"*1. Reaffirms* the need to achieve a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects;

"*2. Expresses* its support for the ongoing peace process, which began in Madrid, and the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, and expresses the hope that the process will lead to the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

"*3. Stresses* the need for the United Nations to play a more active and expanded role in the current peace process and in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles;

"*4. Urges* Member States to provide economic and technical assistance to the Palestinian people;

"*5. Also stresses* the upcoming negotiations on the final settlement and reaffirms the following principles for the achievement of a final settlement and comprehensive peace:

"*(a) The realization of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination;*

"*(b) The withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and from the other occupied Arab territories;*

"*(c) Guaranteeing arrangements for peace and security of all States in the region, including those named in resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, within secure and internationally recognized boundaries;*

"*(d) Resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees in conformity with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, and subsequent relevant resolutions;*

"*(e) Resolving the problem of the Israeli settlements, which are illegal and an obstacle to peace, in conformity with relevant United Nations resolutions;*

"*(f) Guaranteeing freedom of access to Holy Places and religious buildings and sites;*

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[3] *A/48/607-S/26769.*

*"6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, for the promotion of peace in the region and to submit progress reports on developments in this matter."*

*Adopted on 20 December 1993*
*by a vote of 92 in favour,*
*5 against, 51 abstentions*

## II. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS THREE RESOLUTIONS ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The General Assembly considered agenda item 34, entitled "The situation in the Middle East", at three plenary meetings held on 1, 2 and 14 December 1993. (For the verbatim records of the meetings, see A/48/PV.67, A/48/PV.68 and A/48/PV.79) For the report submitted by the Secretary-General under this item, see the November 1993 issue of this bulletin).

On 14 December 1993, the General Assembly adopted three resolutions under this item. The texts are given below.

### 48/58. *Middle East peace process*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Stressing that the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict will constitute a significant contribution to strengthening international peace and security,*

*"Recalling the convening of the Peace Conference on the Middle East at Madrid on 30 October 1991, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, and the subsequent bilateral negotiations, as well as the meetings of the multilateral working groups, and noting with satisfaction the broad international support for the peace process,*

*"Noting the continuing positive participation of the United Nations as a full extraregional participant in the work of the multilateral working groups,*

*"Bearing in mind the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed by the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[1]*

*"Also bearing in mind the Agreement between Israel and Jordan on the Common Agenda, signed in Washington, D.C., on 14 September 1993,*

*"1. Welcomes the peace process started at Madrid, and supports the subsequent bilateral negotiations;*

*"2. Stresses the importance of, and need for, achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;*

*"3. Expresses its full support for the achievements of the peace process thus far, in particular the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements signed by the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Agreement between Israel and Jordan on the Common Agenda, which constitute an important initial step in achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and urges all parties to implement agreements reached;*

*"4. Stresses the need for achieving rapid progress on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations within the peace process;*

*"5. Welcomes the results of the international donors Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, and the establishment*

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*[1] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.*

*of the high-level United Nations task force to support the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and urges Member States to provide economic, financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian people during the interim period;*

*"6. Calls upon all Member States also to extend economic, financial and technical assistance to States in the region and to render support for the peace process;*

*"7. Considers that an active United Nations role in the Middle East peace process and in assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles can make a positive contribution;*

*"8. Encourages regional development and cooperation in the areas where work has already begun within the framework of the Madrid Conference."*

*Adopted on 14 December 1993*
*by a vote of 155 in favour,*
*3 against, 1 abstention*

*48/59. The situation in the Middle East*

*A*

*Jerusalem*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolutions 36/120 E of 10 December 1981, 37/123 C of 16 December 1982, 38/180 C of 19 December 1983, 39/146 C of 14 December 1984, 40/168 C of 16 December 1985, 41/162 C of 4 December 1986, 42/209 D of 11 December 1987, 43/54 C of 6 December 1988, 44/40 C of 4 December 1989, 45/83 C of 13 December 1990, 46/82 B of 16 December 1991 and 47/63 B of 11 December 1992, in which it determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which had altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in particular the so-called "Basic Law" on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, were null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,*

*"Recalling also Security Council resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, in which the Council, inter alia, decided not to recognize the "Basic Law" and called upon those States that had established diplomatic missions at Jerusalem to withdraw such missions from the Holy City,*

*"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 25 October 1993,*

*"1. Determines that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem is illegal and therefore null and void and has no validity whatsoever;*

*"2. Deplores the transfer by some States of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem in violation of Security Council resolution 478 (1980), and their refusal to comply with the provisions of that resolution;*

*"3. Calls once more upon those States to abide by the provisions of the relevant United Nations resolutions, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations;*

*"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."*

*Adopted on 14 December 1993*
*by a vote of 141 in favour,*
*1 against, 11 abstentions*

*B*

*Syrian Golan*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Having considered the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East",*

*"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 25 October 1993,[1]*

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[1] *A/48/522.*

*"Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,*

*"Recalling also its resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, in the annex to which it defined an act of aggression, inter alia, as "the invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State, or any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from such invasion or attack, or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State or part thereof" and provided that "no consideration of whatever nature, whether political, economic, military or otherwise, may serve as a justification for aggression",*

*"Reaffirming the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,*

*"Reaffirming once more the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[2] to the occupied Syrian Golan,*

*"Noting that Israel has refused, in violation of Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, to accept and carry out Security Council resolution 497 (1981),*

*"Deeply concerned that Israel has not withdrawn from the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions,*

*"Taking note with satisfaction of the convening at Madrid of the Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, but regretting that a just and comprehensive peace has not yet been achieved after two years of negotiation in Washington, D.C.,*

*"1. Declares that Israel has failed so far to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981);*

*"2. Declares once more that Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is illegal and therefore null and void and has no validity whatsoever;*

*"3. Declares also that the Knesset decision of 11 November 1991 annexing the occupied Syrian Golan constitutes a grave violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and therefore is null and void and has no validity whatsoever;*

*"4. Declares further all Israeli policies and practices of, or aimed at, annexation of the occupied Arab territories since 1967, including the occupied Syrian Golan, to be illegal and in violation of international law and of the relevant United Nations resolutions;*

*"5. Determines once more that all actions taken by Israel to give effect to its decisions relating to the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and invalid and shall not be recognized;*

*"6. Reaffirms its determination that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907[1], and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls upon the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under those instruments in all circumstances;*

*"7. Determines once more that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan since 1967 and its de facto annexation by Israel on 14 December 1981, following Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on that territory, constitute a continuing threat to peace and security in the region;*

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[1] *See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907 (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).*

[2] *United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.*

*"8. Firmly emphasizes once more its demand that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its illegal decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Syrian Golan, and its decision of 11 November 1991, which resulted in the effective annexation of that territory;*

*"9. Demands once more that Israel withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;*

*"10. Calls upon the international community to urge Israel to withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan and other occupied Arab territories for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;*

*"11. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."*

*Adopted on 14 December 1993*
*by a vote of 65 in favour,*
*2 against, 83 abstentions*

## III. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS FOUR RESOLUTIONS ON THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly reported to the plenary on 8 December 1993 on its consideration of agenda item 86 entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories". (The Fourth Committee report is contained in A/48/647; the verbatim record of the plenary consideration of the item is in A/48/PV.75; for a description of the reports submitted under this item, see the October issue of this bulletin).

The Assembly adopted the following four resolutions recommended by the Fourth Committee:

*48/41 A. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories*

*A*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*"Guided also by the principles of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[2] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[3]*

*"Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 2443 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, and relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights,*

*"Recalling also relevant resolutions of the Security Council,*

*"Aware of the uprising (intifadah) of the Palestinian people,*

*"Convinced that occupation itself represents a primary violation of human rights,*

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[1] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

[3] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

*"Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[4] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[5]*

*"Noting the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes and its Agreed Minutes, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization at Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[6]*

*"1. Commends the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly and for its impartiality;*

*"2. Demands that Israel cooperate with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate;*

*"3. Deplores the policies and practices of Israel violating the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the reports of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;[4]*

*"4. Expresses the hope that, in the light of the recent positive political developments, those policies and practices will be brought to an end immediately;*

*"5. Requests the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross according to its regulations in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories are safeguarded and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;*

*"6. Also requests the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territory;*

*"7. Further requests the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment of prisoners in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;*

*"8. Requests the Secretary-General:*

*"(a) To provide all necessary facilities to the Special Committee, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;*

*"(b) To continue to make available such additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;*

*"(c) To circulate regularly and periodically the reports mentioned in paragraph 6 above to Member States;*

*"(d) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;*

*"(e) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution;*

*"9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories"."*

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[4] *A/48/96, A/48/278 and A/48/557.*

[5] *A/48/537, A/48/538, A/48/539, A/48/540, A/48/541, A/48/542 and A/48/543.*

[6] *A/48/486-S/26560, annex.*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*by a vote of 93 in favour,*
*2 against, 65 abstentions*

*B*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,*

*"Recalling its relevant resolutions,*

*"Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[4] and the reports of the Secretary-General[5],*

*"Considering that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments and rules of international law is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,*

*"Stressing that Israel, the occupying Power, should strictly comply with its obligations under international law,*

*"1. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] is applicable to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;*

*"2. Demands that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the said Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;*

*"3. Calls upon all States parties to the said Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions,[2] to exert all efforts in order to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;*

*"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*by a vote of 152 in favour,*
*1 against, 6 abstentions*

*C*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,*

*"Recalling its relevant resolutions and the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights,*

*"Aware of the responsibility of the international community to promote human rights and ensure respect for international law,*

*"Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,*

*"Gravely concerned about the violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people, as contained in the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,[4] especially in the fields of collective punishment, closure of areas, annexation, establishment of settlements and mass deportation,*

*"Gravely concerned also about the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, resulting from the measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of those territories,*

*"Concerned about the dangerous situation resulting from actions taken by the illegal, armed settlers in the occupied territory,*

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[2] *Ibid., Nos. 970-973.*

*"Convinced of the positive impact of international presence in the occupied Palestinian territory to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1/]*

*"Reaffirming the applicability of the said Geneva Convention to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,*

*"Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes, and its Agreed Minutes, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, at Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[8/]*

*"1. Determines that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity, and demands that Israel desist forthwith from taking any such measures or actions;*

*"2. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, facilitate the return of all Palestinians deported from the occupied Palestinian territory since 1967;*

*"3. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to accelerate the release of all Palestinians arbitrarily detained or imprisoned;*

*"4. Calls for complete respect by the occupying Power of all fundamental freedoms of the Palestinian people, such as the freedom of education, including the free operation of schools, universities and other educational institutions;*

*"5. Reaffirms that the Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 are illegal and an obstacle to peace;*

*"6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*by a vote of 106 in favour,*
*2 against, 48 abstentions*

*D*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Deeply concerned that the Arab territories occupied since 1967 have been under continued Israeli military occupation,*

*"Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,*

*"Recalling also its resolutions 36/226 B of 17 December 1981, ES-9/1 of 5 February 1982, 37/88 E of 10 December 1982, 38/79 F of 15 December 1983, 39/95 F of 14 December 1984, 40/161 F of 16 December 1985, 41/63 F of 3 December 1986, 42/160 F of 8 December 1987, 43/21 of 3 November 1988, 43/58 F of 6 December 1988, 44/2 of 6 October 1989, 44/48 F of 8 December 1989, 45/74 F of 11 December 1990, 46/47 F of 9 December 1991 and 47/70 F of 14 December 1992,*

*"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 29 October 1993,[8/]*

*"Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 3414 (XXX) of 5 December 1975, 31/61 of 9 December 1976, 32/20 of 25 November 1977, 33/28 and 33/29 of 7 December 1978, 34/70 of 6 December 1979 and 35/122 E of 11 December 1980, in which, inter alia, it called upon Israel to put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories,*

*"Reaffirming once more the illegality of Israel's decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,*

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*[8/]A/48/542.*

*"Reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under the Charter of the United Nations,*

*"Recalling the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1]*

*"Reaffirming the applicability of the said Convention to the occupied Syrian Golan,*

*"Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,*

*"1. Condemns Israel, the occupying Power, for its refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, and in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decisions;*

*"2. Also condemns the persistence of Israel in changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular the establishment of settlements;*

*"3. Determines that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;*

*"4. Denounces attempts by Israel forcibly to impose Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls upon it to desist from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;*

*"5. Deplores the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;*

*"6. Calls once again upon Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;*

*"7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*by a vote of 85 in favour,*
*1 against, 68 abstentions*

## IV. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS TEN RESOLUTIONS ON THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA)

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) reported to the plenary on 10 December 1993 on its consideration of agenda item 85 entitled "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East". (The Fourth Committee report is contained in A/48/646; the plenary consideration of the item is in A/48/PV.75; for a description of the reports submitted under this item, see the October 1993 issue of this bulletin.)

The Assembly adopted the following 10 resolutions recommended by the Fourth Committee:

*48/40. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*

*A*

*Assistance to Palestine refugees*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolution 47/69 of 14 December 1992 and all its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,*

*"Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993,[1] and, in particular, the hope expressed by the Commissioner-General "that this report covers an era which is gone forever",*

*"Welcoming the signature by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes, and its Agreed Minutes, at Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[2]*

*"1. Notes with regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of concern;*

*"2. Expresses its thanks to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and to private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;*

*"3. Requests that the headquarters of the Agency should be transferred as soon as practicable to its area of operations;*

*"4. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III),[3] and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 1994;*

*"5. Notes that the new context created by the Israeli-Palestinian accord of 13 September 1993 will have major consequences for the activities of the Agency, which is henceforth called upon, within the framework of strengthened cooperation with the specialized agencies and the World Bank, to make a decisive contribution towards giving a fresh impetus to the economic and social stability of the occupied territories, and notes also that the functioning of the Agency remains essential throughout its area of operations;*

*"6. Welcomes the results of the International Donors Conference to Support Middle East Peace, held on 1 October 1993, concerning urgent financial and economic assistance in support of the Israeli-Palestinian accord, and urges all Member States to extend aid and assistance with a view to the economic development of the occupied territories;*

*"7. Directs attention to the continuing seriousness of the financial position of the Agency, as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General;*

*"8. Notes with profound concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions, the increased level of income to the Agency is still insufficient to cover essential budget requirements in the current year and that, at the currently foreseen levels of contributions, deficits will recur each year;*

*"9. Calls upon all Governments, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, and therefore urges non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly and contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions."*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*by a vote of 159 in favour,*
*none against, 2 abstentions*

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[1] *A/48/13 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.*

[2] *A/48/486-S/26560, annex.*

[3] *See A/48/474, annex.*

*B*

*Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 47/69 B of 14 December 1992 and the previous resolutions on this question,*

*"Recalling also its decision 36/462 of 16 March 1982, whereby it took note of the special report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[4]*

*"Having considered the report of the Working Group,[5]*

*"Taking into account the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993,[1]*

*"Deeply concerned about the critical financial situation of the Agency, which has affected and affects the continuation of the provision of the necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,*

*"Emphasizing the continuing need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at the present minimum level, the activities of the Agency, as well as to enable the Agency to carry out essential construction,*

*"1. Commends the Working Group on the Financing of the Un. 2d Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency;*

*"2. Takes note with approval of the report of the Working Group;*

*"3. Requests the Working Group to continue its efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, for the financing of the Agency for a further period of one year;*

*"4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work."*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*without a vote*

*C*

*Assistance to persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolution 47/69 C of 14 December 1992 and all its previous resolutions on the question,*

*"Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993,[1]*

*"Concerned about the continued human suffering resulting from the hostilities in the Middle East,*

*"1. Reaffirms its resolution 47/69 C and all its previous resolutions on the question;*

*"2. Endorses, bearing in mind the objectives of those resolutions, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance as far as practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to other persons in the area who are at present displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;*

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[4] *A/36/866 and Corr.1; see also A/37/591.*

[5] *A/48/554.*

*"3. Strongly appeals to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously for the above purposes to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned."*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*without a vote*

*D*

*Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolution 212 (III) of 19 November 1948 on assistance to Palestine refugees,*

*"Recalling also its resolutions 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, 36/146 H of 16 December 1981, 37/120 D of 16 December 1982, 38/83 D of 15 December 1983, 39/99 D of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D of 16 December 1985, 41/69 D of 3 December 1986, 42/69 D of 2 December 1987, 43/57 D of 6 December 1988, 44/47 D of 8 December 1989, 45/73 D of 11 December 1990, 46/46 D of 9 December 1991 and 47/69 D of 14 December 1992,*

*"Cognizant of the fact that the Palestine refugees have, for the last four decades, lost their homes, lands and means of livelihood,*

*"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[a]*

*"Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993,[b]*

*"1. Urges all States to respond to the appeal contained in its resolution 32/90 F of 13 December 1977 and reiterated in subsequent relevant resolutions in a manner commensurate with the needs of Palestine refugees for higher education, including vocational training;*

*"2. Strongly appeals to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to augment the special allocations for grants and scholarships to Palestine refugees, in addition to their contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;*

*"3. Expresses its appreciation to all Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations that responded favourably to its resolutions 41/69 D, 42/69 D, 43/57 D, 44/47 D, 45/73 D, 46/46 D and 47/69 D;*

*"4. Invites the relevant specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue, within their respective spheres of competence, to extend assistance for higher education to Palestine refugee students;*

*"5. Appeals to all States, specialized agencies and the United Nations University to contribute generously to the Palestinian universities in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including, in due course, the proposed University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees;*

*"6. Also appeals to all States, specialized agencies and other international bodies to contribute towards the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees;*

*"7. Requests the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships and to award them to qualified Palestine refugee candidates;*

*"8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*by a vote of 161 in favour, none against, 1 abstention*

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[a] *A/48/372.*

*E*

*Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,*

*"Recalling also its resolutions 2792 C (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2963 C (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3089 C (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973, 3331 D (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, 3419 C (XXX) of 8 December 1975, 31/15 E of 23 November 1976, 32/90 C of 13 December 1977, 33/112 E of 18 December 1978, 34/52 F of 23 November 1979, 35/13 F of 3 November 1980, 36/146 A of 16 December 1981, 37/120 E and I of 16 December 1982, 38/83 E and J of 15 December 1983, 39/99 E and J of 14 December 1984, 40/165 E and J of 16 December 1985, 41/69 E and J of 3 December 1986, 42/69 E and J of 2 December 1987, 43/57 E of 6 December 1988, 44/47 E of 8 December 1989, 45/73 E of 11 December 1990, 46/46 E of 9 December 1991 and 47/69 E of 14 December 1992,*

*"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[2]*

*"Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993,[1]*

*"Recalling the provisions of paragraph 11 of its resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, and considering that measures to resettle Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967 away from their homes and property from which they were displaced constitute a violation of their inalienable right of return,*

*"Alarmed by the reports received from the Commissioner-General that the Israeli occupying authorities, in contravention of the obligation of Israel under international law, persist in their policy of demolishing shelters occupied by refugee families,*

*"1. Demands once again that Israel desist from the removal and resettlement of Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967 and from the destruction of their shelters;*

*"2. Requests the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to address the acute situation of the Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967 and accordingly to extend all the services of the Agency to those refugees;*

*"3. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Commissioner-General, to resume issuing identification cards to all Palestine refugees and their descendants in the occupied Palestinian territory, irrespective of whether or not they are recipients of rations and services of the Agency;*

*"4. Also requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly, before the opening of its forty-ninth session, on the implementation of the present resolution and, in particular, on the compliance of Israel with paragraph 1 above."*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*by a vote of 157 in favour,*
*2 against, no abstentions*

*F*

*Return of population and refugees displaced since 1967*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling Security Council resolution 273 (1967) of 14 June 1967,*

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[2] A/48/373.

*"Recalling also its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 D (XXV) of 8 December 1970, 2792 E (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2963 C and D (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3089 C (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973, 3331 D (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, 3419 C (XXX) of 8 December 1975, 31/15 D of 23 November 1976, 32/90 E of 13 December 1977, 33/112 F of 18 December 1978, 34/52 E of 23 November 1979, ES-7/2 of 29 July 1980, 35/13 E of 3 November 1980, 36/146 B of 16 December 1981, 37/120 G of 16 December 1982, 38/83 G of 15 December 1983, 39/99 G of 14 December 1984, 40/165 G of 16 December 1985, 41/69 G of 3 December 1986, 42/69 G of 2 December 1987, 43/57 G of 6 December 1988, 44/47 G of 8 December 1989, 45/73 G of 11 December 1990, 46/46 G of 9 December 1991 and 47/69 G of 14 December 1992,*

*"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[9]*

*"Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993,[10]*

*"Noting the relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes, and its Agreed Minutes, signed at Washington, D.C. on 13 September 1993 by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[11]*

*"1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of all displaced inhabitants to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;*

*"2. Calls upon Israel to accelerate the necessary steps for the unimpeded return of all displaced inhabitants;*

*"3. Requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to report to the General Assembly, before the opening of its forty-ninth session, on the compliance of Israel with paragraph 2 above."*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*by a vote of 152 in favour,*
*2 against, 5 abstentions*

## *G*

### *Revenues derived from Palestine refugees' properties*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolutions 35/13 A to F of 3 November 1980, 36/146 C of 16 December 1981, 37/120 H of 16 December 1982, 38/83 H of 15 December 1983, 39/99 H of 14 December 1984, 40/165 H of 16 December 1985, 41/69 H of 3 December 1986, 42/69 H of 2 December 1987, 43/57 H of 6 December 1988, 44/47 H of 8 December 1989, 45/73 H of 11 December 1990, 46/46 H of 9 December 1991, 47/69 H of 14 December 1992 and all its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,*

*"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[9]*

*"Taking note also of the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, covering the period from 1 September 1992 to 31 August 1993,[12]*

*"Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[13] and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her private property,*

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[9] *A/48/275.*

[10] *A/48/375.*

[12] *A/48/474.*

[13] *Resolution 217 A (III).*

*"Considering that the Palestine Arab refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of justice and equity,

"Recalling in particular its resolution 394 (V) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine Arab refugees,

"Taking note of the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine in its twenty-second progress report,[12] and of the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel and to establish a fund for the receipt of income derived therefrom, on behalf of the rightful owners;

"2. Calls once more upon Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

"3. Calls upon the Governments of all the other Member States concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel, which would assist the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."*

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[12] Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, annex No. 11, document A/5700.

*Adopted on 10 December 1993 by a vote of 114 in favour, 2 against, 44 abstentions*

## H

### Protection of Palestine refugees

*"The General Assembly,

"Recalling in particular recent Security Council resolutions 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, 607 (1988) of 5 January 1988, 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988, 636 (1989) of 6 July 1989, 641 (1989) of 30 August 1989, 672 (1990) of 12 October 1990, 673 (1990) of 24 October 1990, 681 (1990) of 20 December 1990, 694 (1991) of 24 May 1991 and 726 (1992) of 6 January 1992,

"Also recalling its resolutions ES-7/5 of 26 June 1982, ES-7/6 and ES-7/8 of 19 August 1982, ES-7/9 of 24 September 1982, 37/120 J of 16 December 1982, 38/83 I of 15 December 1983, 39/99 I of 14 December 1984, 40/165 I of 16 December 1985, 41/69 I of 3 December 1986, 42/69 I of 2 December 1987, 43/21 of 3 November 1988, 43/57 I of 6 December 1988, 44/47 I of 8 December 1989, 45/73 I of 11 December 1990, 46/46 I of 9 December 1991 and 47/69 I of 14 December 1992,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General dated 21 January 1988, submitted in accordance with Security Council resolution 605 (1987),[13] the report dated 31 October 1990, submitted in accordance with Council resolution 672 (1990)[14], and the report dated 9 April 1991, submitted in accordance with Council resolution 681 (1990),[15]*

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[13] S/19443; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-third Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1988, document S/19443.

[14] S/21919 and Corr.1; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-fifth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1990, document S/21919.

[15] S/22472; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1991, document S/22472.

*"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[16]*

*"Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993,[17]*

*"Concerned about the situation in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,*

*"Taking into account the need to consider measures for the impartial protection of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation,*

*"Referring to the humanitarian principles of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949[12] and to the obligations arising from the regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 1907,[18]*

*"Deeply distressed that, notwithstanding the improved security situation owing to the deployment of the Lebanese army, the Palestinian and Lebanese population are still suffering from continuing Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon and from other hostile acts,*

*"1. Holds Israel responsible for the security of the Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and calls upon it to fulfil its obligations as the occupying Power in this regard, in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;[12]*

*"2. Calls upon all the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the Convention in all circumstances, in conformity with their obligation under article 1 thereof;*

*"3. Urges the Security Council to remain seized of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory;*

*"4. Urges the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue their efforts in support of the upholding of the safety and security and the legal and human rights of the Palestine refugees in all the territories under Israeli occupation since 1967;*

*"5. Calls once again upon Israel to desist forthwith from acts of aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian population in Lebanon, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law;*

*"6. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, release forthwith all arbitrarily detained Palestine refugees, including the employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;*

*"7. Calls once again upon Israel to compensate the Agency for damages to its property and facilities resulting from the invasion of Lebanon by Israel in 1982, without prejudice to the responsibility of the latter for all damages resulting from that invasion, as well as for other damages resulting from the policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory;*

*"8. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly, before the opening of its forty-ninth session, on the implementation of the present resolution."*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*by a vote of 153 in favour,*
*2 against, 6 abstentions*

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[16] *A/48/376.*

[12] *United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.*

[18] *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907 (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915), p. 100.*

*I*

*University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993 by a vote of 156 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions*

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 36/146 G of 16 December 1981, 37/120 C of 16 December 1982, 38/83 K of 15 December 1983, 39/99 K of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D and K of 16 December 1985, 41/69 K of 3 December 1986, 42/69 K of 2 December 1987, 43/57 J of 6 December 1988, 44/47 J of 8 December 1989, 45/73 J of 11 December 1990, 46/46 J of 9 December 1991 and 47/69 J of 14 December 1992,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[19]

"Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993,[1]

"1. Emphasizes the need for strengthening the educational system in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 5 June 1967, including Jerusalem, and specifically the need for the establishment of the proposed university;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary measures for establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, giving due consideration to the recommendations consistent with the provisions of that resolution;

"3. Calls once more upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate in the implementation of the present resolution and to remove the hindrances that it has put in the way of establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds";

"4. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

[19] A/48/431.

*J*

*Protection of Palestinian students and educational institutions and safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in the occupied Palestinian territories*

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling Security Council resolution 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987,

"Recalling also its resolutions 43/21 of 3 November 1988, 43/57 I of 6 December 1988, 44/2 of 6 October 1989, 44/47 K of 8 December 1989, 45/73 K of 11 December 1990, 46/46 K of 9 December 1991 and 47/69 K of 14 December 1992,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General dated 21 January 1988, submitted in accordance with Security Council resolution 605 (1987),[12] the report dated 31 October 1990, submitted in accordance with Council resolution 672 (1990) of 12 October 1990,[14] and the report dated 9 April 1991, submitted in accordance with Council resolution 681 (1990) of 20 December 1990,[13]

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[20]

"Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993,[1]

"Taking note, in particular, of section 4 of that report, in particular paragraphs 88 and 89,

"Concerned about the situation in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

[20] A/48/377.

*"1. Condemns the repeated Israeli raids on the premises and installations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to refrain from such raids;*

*"2. Deplores the policy and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, which have led to the prolonged closure of educational and vocational institutions, a large number of which are operated by the Agency, and the repeated disruption of medical services;*

*"3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."*

*Adopted on 10 December 1993*
*by a vote of 159 in favour,*
*2 against, no abstentions*

## V. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS TWO RESOLUTIONS ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

At its session held from 28 June to 30 July 1993, the Economic and Social Council adopted three resolutions and one decision on the question of Palestine. The texts of these resolutions are contained in the July 1993 issue of this bulletin.

On 21 December 1993, the General Assembly considered the report of the Secretary-General on Assistance to the Palestinian People (A/48/183 and Add.1) and the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/48/3), and adopted two resolutions on this issue. The text of resolutions, with the indication of the vote, is given below.

*48/212. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1867, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolution 47/172 of 22 December 1992,*

*"Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/52 of 29 July 1993,*

*"Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of people under foreign occupation over their national resources,*

*"Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and recalling Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,*

*"Recalling also Security Council resolution 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and other resolutions affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949[1] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,*

*"Aware of the negative and grave economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan,*

*"Welcoming the ongoing Middle East peace process started at Madrid, and in particular the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes, and its Agreed Minutes, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[2]*

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[1] *United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.*

[2] *A/48/486-S/26560, annex.*

*"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]*

*"2. Reaffirms that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, are illegal and an obstacle to economic and social development;*

*"3. Recognizes the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan;*

*"4. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the population of the Syrian Golan to their natural and all other economic resources, and regards any infringement thereof as being illegal;*

*"5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."*

*Adopted on 21 December 1993*
*by a vote of 143 in favour,*
*3 against, 13 abstentions*

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[1] *A/48/188-E/1993/78.*

*48/213. Assistance to the Palestinian People*

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolution 47/170, of 22 December 1992,*

*"Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes, and its Agreed Minutes, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[1]*

*"Gravely concerned over the difficult economic and employment conditions facing the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Territory,*

*"Conscious of the need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Territory and in the living conditions of the Palestinian people,*

*"Aware that development is difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,*

*"Noting, in the light of the recent developments, the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,*

*"Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities,*

*"Noting the convening of the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization from 26 to 29 April 1993,*

*"Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people,*

*"Welcoming the convening of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, held in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, and the establishment of the high-level United Nations task force to support the economic and social development of the Palestinian people,*

*"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[2]*

*"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;*

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[1] *A/48/486-S/26560, annex.*

[2] *A/48/183-E/1993/74 and Add.1*

*"2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people;*

*"3. Expresses its appreciation to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;*

*"4. Welcomes the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993;*

*"5. Urges Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people in order to assist in the development of the West Bank and Gaza, and to do so in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;*

*"6. Considers that an active United Nations role in assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes, and its Agreed Minutes, can make a positive contribution;*

*"7. Calls upon relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people, and to improve coordination through an appropriate mechanism under the auspices of the Secretary-General;*

*"8. Urges Member States to open their markets to exports from the West Bank and Gaza on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules;*

*"9. Suggests the convening in 1993/94, under the appropriate United Nations auspices, of a seminar on Palestinian trade and investment needs in light of the new developments;*

*"10. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the coordinated work of the United Nations system for an adequate response to the needs of the Palestinian people and to mobilize financial, technical, economic and other assistance;*

*"11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:*

*"(a) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;*

*"(b) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;*

*"12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled 'Assistance to the Palestinian people'."*

*Adopted on 21 December 1993*
*without a vote*

## VI. INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS ASSISTANCE TO SMALL FARMERS IN GAZA AND JERICHO

The following press release was issued by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on 20 September 1993 (See IFAD/6835):

*"The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) announced its intention to extend development aid to assist poor and disadvantaged farmers in the occupied territories, particularly in Gaza and Jericho. The announcement was made at the end of the forty-ninth session of the Fund's Executive Board held in Rome on 15 and 16 September 1993.*

*"The Board endorsed the proposal made by Mr. Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, President of IFAD, to begin research for the identification of small farmers' requirements, needs and means to improve agricultural production in Gaza and Jericho. The Executive Board authorized President Al-Sultan to submit specific proposals to extend grants of up to $ 3 million for development programmes in the near future."*

## VII. JAPAN ANNOUNCES $16.5 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA PEACE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME; EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND UNRWA SIGN 1993-1995 ASSISTANCE CONVENTION

The following press release was issued by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) on 14 December 1993 (See PAL/1809):

*"Japan has announced a contribution of $16.5 million for projects in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Peace Implementation Programme 'to improve living conditions for the Palestinian people, particularly housing in the occupied territory'. Ambassador Kunisada Kume, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Office in Vienna, informed UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen of the contribution at UNRWA headquarters in Vienna today.*

*"'This contribution is the first step in implementing Japan's $200 million programme of assistance to Palestinians over the next two years pledged by Prime Minister Hosokawa at the United Nations General Assembly in September', Ambassador Kume said. The Commissioner-General thanked Japan 'for the largest contribution to the Agency's Peace Implementation Programme to date'.*

*"UNRWA launched its Peace Implementation Programme on 6 October and has already identified nearly 100 short-term projects worth some $100 million in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that can be implemented during the initial phase of the transition period. The Programme aims to enhance services, improve basic physical and social services infrastructure and create new employment opportunities for the estimated 40 per cent of the work force in Gaza and the West Bank which has been idle since the closure of the occupied territory in late March. The scope of the Programme also includes projects for Palestine refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria."*

On 20 December 1993, UNRWA issued the following press release (See PAL/1810):

*"The eighth Convention between the European Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for assistance to Palestine refugees for 1993-1995 was signed in Brussels on 17 December, providing for approximately $106 million in cash assistance to the Agency's education, health and food assistance programmes. The assistance was an increase of 16 per cent over the previous three-year Convention. The European Community and its member States provide about 54 per cent of UNRWA's budget.*

*"The European Community has also undertaken to contribute a substantial amount of in-kind assistance, as in previous years. The exact amount of such assistance would be established on an annual basis. During 1993, the Community's in-kind contribution was approximately $35 million.*

*"The UNRWA Commissioner-General, Ilter Turkmen, represented the Agency at the signing ceremony. The Commission of the European Community was represented by the Director of the Mediterranean, Near East and Middle East Directorate, Eberhard Rhein. The Permanent Representative of Belgium, Jan De Bock, signed the Convention on behalf of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of Ministers.*

*"On 18 October, UNRWA and the European Community broke ground for the new 232-bed Gaza General Hospital, the first new hospital to be constructed there in more than 25 years. The construction costs of the hospital, estimated at more than $20 million, are being met by a special contribution from the European Community.*

*"Following the signing of the Declaration of Principles by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 13 September in Washington, D.C., the European Community pledged approximately $2.05 million to rehabilitate refugee shelters in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, as well as $195,000 for the implementation of a food storage programme in the West Bank."*

## VIII. CHAIRMAN OF PLO SEEKS UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING PALESTINIAN POLICE ACADEMY

The following statement was issued on 14 December 1993 by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General (See SG/SM/5179):

*"Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali received yesterday evening the Permanent Observer for Palestine, Dr. Nasser Al-Kidwa, who delivered to the Secretary-General a hand-written letter from Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, requesting the assistance of the United Nations in the establishment of a Palestinian Police Academy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.*

*"The Secretary-General informed Dr. Al-Kidwa that this request would be considered within the context of the aid programme which the United Nations system is providing, to contribute to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. He added that efforts would soon begin to raise the funding needed for these activities."*

## IX. EXCERPT FROM THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL AT ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION, 20-22 DECEMBER 1993

*"The current Arab situation*

*"The Supreme Council has followed developments in the Middle East peace process with keen interest. It welcomes the signing of the Declaration of Principles by the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel as a first step towards the attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting solution of the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the principle of land for peace, a complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, especially the Holy City of Jerusalem, and the establishment of firm foundations for security and stability in the Middle East. Accordingly, the Council expresses the hope that the current negotiations will lead to substantial progress in all spheres.*

*"It urges the international community to persuade Israel to end its occupation of the Syrian Golan and to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which calls for Israel's withdrawal from all Lebanese territory."* (See A/49/56-S/26926)

## X. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

1. Middle East Dialogue (December 1993), is available from 20 Forth Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3LH, UK. Fax: +44 (0) 31 557 9996. The publication contains views of its readers and other contributors to provide an ongoing and balanced debate on Middle East issues. The issue includes an article on the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

2. Pacific Institute Report (Winter 1993), which includes an article entitled "The Politics and Science of Water in the Middle East", is published by the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security, 1204 Preservation Park Way, Oakland, California 94612.

3. The Other Front, weekly bulletin on developments in Israeli society, available from: The Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem. (Issues on hand: Nov. 10, December 1 and 8, 22 and 29).

4. News from Within, newsletter of the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem. Volume IX, No. 10 includes articles analyzing the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement and statements and articles on human rights and economic concerns raised by the Agreement. Volume IX, No. 12 includes articles on IDF-Settler violence; an opinion on the Agreement; municipal elections; and an agenda for NGO support for Palestinian economic independence.

5. Development and Socio-Economic Progress, is published quarterly by the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), 89 Abdel Aziz Al-Saoud Street, 11559-61 Manial El-Roda, Cairo, Egypt. Fax (202) 363 7361. The publication includes articles on women's rights in the Arab world; report on an Arab conference on human rights; and Arab-Israeli Balance of Military Power in the Context of Development.

6. Middle East International, No. 464, 3 December 1993 and No. 465, 17 December 1993. A biweekly publication, available from P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America. The publication includes comprehensive news analysis on negotiations, feature articles on leading personalities in the peace talks as well as news from Middle Eastern countries and the rest of the international community.

7. April 17, No. 4/5, December 1993. A quarterly publication by the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem. The publication provides information about Palestinian political prisoners as well as the work of Palestinian organizations and Israeli human rights groups in support of political prisoners.

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